Leadership Skills | A-

Juan Perón is one of Latin America’s most famous dictators, both for the radical work he did to improve Argentina, but also for his sometimes self-destructive rule. First, Perón created a good image by stressing the importance of social justice, helping him gain many supporters from the working class. The political movement of Perónism shows his initial appeal as one against authoritarian rule. He effectively used his wife Eva’s image as “one of the people” to gain followers. He was also successful in pinpointing Argentina’s problems, and solved many of them through a five-year plan in 1946. He strengthened Argentina from the inside by industrializing and modernizing the country to improve the economy and give both himself and Argentina more power. He modernized the army for protection, and made education more accessible, by building schools for girls and eliminating university fees. Some factors that led to his decline were out of his control, such as droughts and inflation, but his ruthless shutting down of all opposition was detrimental to his rule. Over the years, Perón became less of a President and more of a dictator (like the leaders before him) by suppressing all forms of opposition. He jailed people who were not on his side, such as political opponents and members of the Catholic Church, and oppressed the newspapers. Naturally, there will always be someone against you when you are a public figure, but I would suggest to Perón that he be more accepting of opposing viewpoints.

I give Juan Perón an A- because he effectively gathered support and strengthened Argentina from the inside, but his rule turned into a dictatorship because he was very strict in eliminating all people opposed to his ideas. Argentina remained relatively stable after Perón, and he is considered to be one of its best leaders, two accomplishments he should be most proud of.

Bibliography: